



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

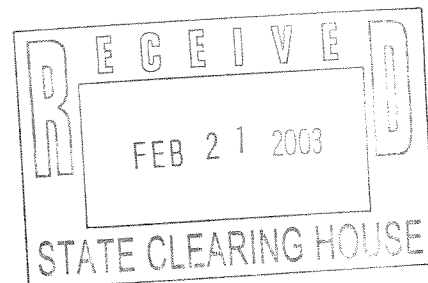
Notice of Preparation

To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Interested Individuals

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park General Plan

Lead Agency: California Department of Parks and Recreation
 Northern Service Center
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 Contact: Wayne Woodroof

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 2022 J Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 Contact: Curtis Alling, Petra Unger



The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), as the Lead Agency, will prepare a programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park General Plan. We would like to know the views of interested individuals, organizations and agencies as to the scope and content of the information to be included and analyzed in the EIR. Agencies should comment on the elements of the potential effects on any resources that are relevant to their statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project.

The project description, location, and potential environmental effects of the proposed project (to the extent known) are included in this Notice of Preparation (NOP).

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response should be sent at the earliest possible date, **but not later than 30 days** after issuance of this notice, which establishes the final deadline as **March 24, 2003**.

Please send your written response to Wayne Woodroof, Statewide General Plan Coordinator, California Department of Park and Recreation, at the address shown above. Responses should include the name of a contact person at your agency.

A planning workshop and EIR scoping meeting has been scheduled to give the public an opportunity to comment on the scope, focus, and content of the Sinkyone Wilderness State

Park General Plan and EIR. The meeting will be held from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on March 19, 2003 at the Veterans Memorial Building at 483 Conger Street, Garberville, CA.

PROJECT TITLE

Sinkyone Wilderness State Park General Plan

PROJECT LOCATION

Sinkyone Wilderness State Park is located on the north coast of California in the northwest corner of Mendocino County and the southwest corner of Humboldt County (Exhibit 1).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

DPR's General Plan Unit, in conjunction with its North Coast Redwood District office, is in the process of developing a General Plan for Sinkyone Wilderness State Park ("Park") in accordance with Public Resources Code §5002.2 referencing General Plan guidelines and §21000 et seq. concerning the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of the General Plan is to guide future use activities and management objectives at the Park. The concept of carrying capacity will be integrated into the general planning process and EIR to evaluate the level of visitor use in relationship to its potential effects on natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational resources, overall visitor experience, and potential designation of large parts of the park as state wilderness.

The Sinkyone Wilderness State Park General Plan study area covers approximately 6,800 acres and is composed of four distinct parcels including the main parcel, Shadowbrook parcels 1 and 2, and the Council Madrone Parcel. The park is part of California's "Lost Coast" and is bordered by the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) King Range National Conservation Area to the north, the Pacific Ocean to the West, unincorporated areas of Mendocino County to the south, and lands owned by private parties and the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council to the east.

The Park is characterized by steep slopes that are heavily wooded with Douglas fir forest on the east side and tanbark oak woodland on the west side. Coastal terraces are covered with coastal prairie and coastal scrub. The Park also contains several groves of old growth redwood. Sandy beaches and steep rocky headlands form the western boundary. The park provides various recreational opportunities including hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, mountain biking, camping, and beachcombing.

Preparation of the General Plan is in its early stages, so ultimate land use and resource management provisions have not yet been determined. DPR is currently in the process of evaluating existing resources and management opportunities and constraints at the Park that will aid in the development of the General Plan, with plan provisions to minimize any potential environmental impact. Known resources within the Park include:

- Numerous perennial creeks that drain directly into the ocean and associated riparian woodlands;

- Old growth redwood groves;
- Special-status species including plant species and anadromous fish;
- Culturally significant areas (e.g., old homestead, Wheeler town site, historic logging and shipping sites, Sinkyone Indian village sites and seasonal encampments, Council Madrone site); and
- Important recreational areas (e.g., Lost Coast trail, several hike-in and drive-in campsites, Bear Harbor and Usal Beaches).

Issues that will be considered as part of the General Plan process include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Protection and long-term management of sensitive natural, cultural, and aesthetic resources;
- Potential impact to threatened and endangered species and sensitive natural habitats;
- Invasive species management and restoration of natural ecosystems;
- Expansion of recreational opportunities;
- Erosion control and slope stability issues;
- Water quality issues;
- Land management in cooperation with adjacent landowners including private landowners, the BLM and InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, Sanctuary Forest, the Upper Mattole River and Forest Cooperative;
- Dedication of large portions of the park as state wilderness areas;
- Interpretive services at the park;
- Specific management of lands in the upper Mattole Watershed;

POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Although ultimate land use and resources management provisions of the General Plan have not yet been determined, generally expected types of environmental impacts that could occur as a result of the General Plan can be identified. The General Plan will seek to minimize any potential effects through the plan alternative development process. Based on the known resource characteristics of the Park and generally anticipated Park needs and uses, potential environmental effects that will be addressed in the General Plan and EIR, include:

- Potential conflicts between sensitive biological and cultural resources and facility needs;
- Potential use conflicts resulting from dedication of large portions of the park as wilderness;

- Potential traffic effect resulting from proposed road closures;
- Erosion/water quality impacts along the park's many drainages.

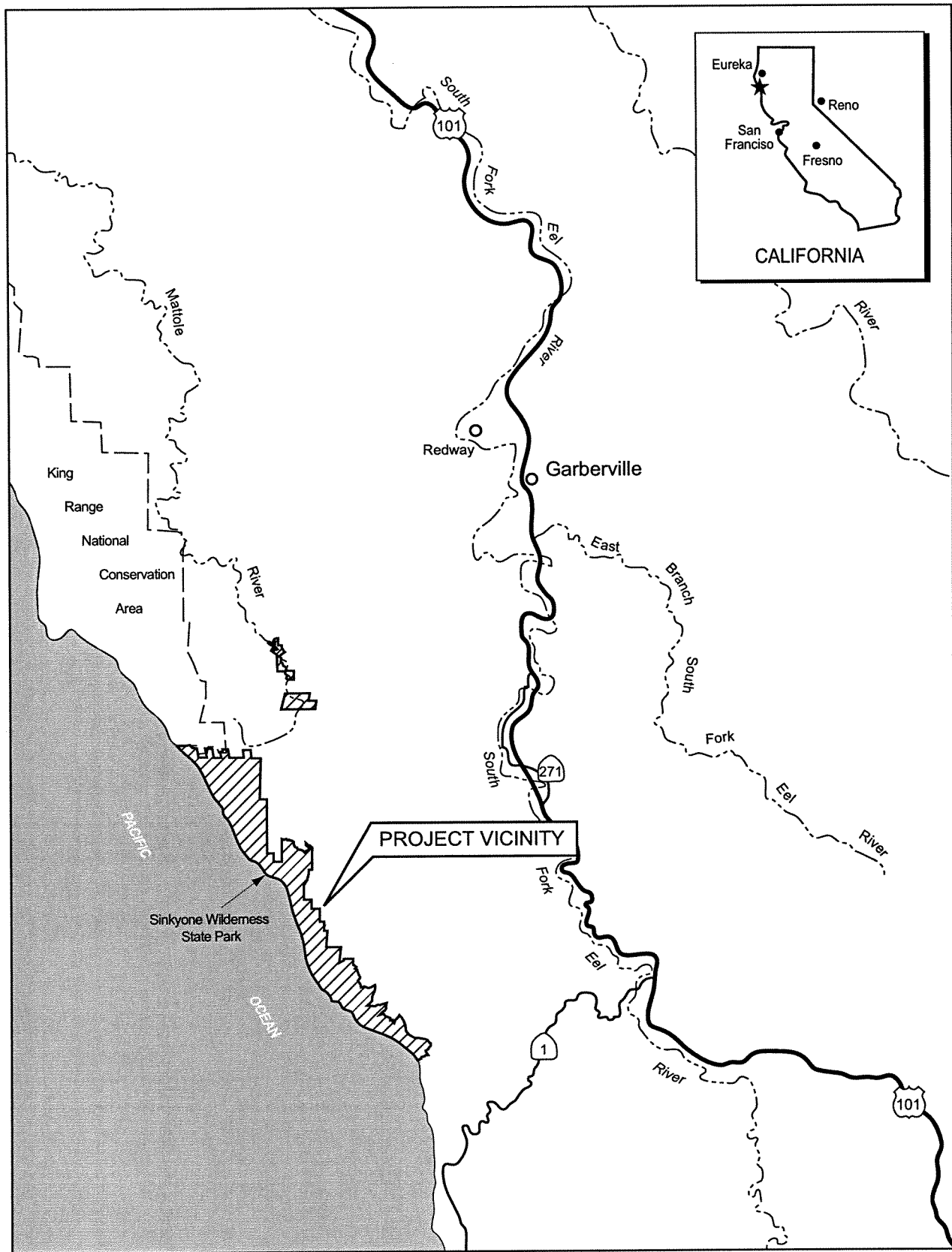
Because recreational use levels at the Park are not expected to change substantially as a result of the General Plan, no significant transportation improvements and/or impacts are anticipated. If the potential to take threatened and endangered species is identified, the EIR will describe future State and Federal consultation and permit requirements that will be necessary for facility development and the types of typically mitigation expected.

INTENDED USES OF THE EIR

DPR and the Parks and Recreation Commission will use the EIR component of the General Plan to consider the environmental effects, mitigation measures, and alternatives, when reviewing the proposed General Plan for approval. The EIR will serve as the State's CEQA compliance document for adoption of the General Plan. It will also serve as the programmatic environmental document that may be referenced in implementing future actions included in the General Plan. Subsequent project-level activities identified in the General Plan will be examined in light of the program EIR to determine whether and additional environmental document must be prepared prior to project approval and implementation (State CEQA Guidelines §15168 (c)). Responsible agencies may also use the EIR for subsequent discretionary action, as needed.

By: Wayne O. Woodroof
Signature: Wayne O. Woodroof
Title: Manager, Statewide General Plan Program
Date: February 21, 2003

Attachment: Exhibit I: Regional Location of Sinkyone Wilderness State Park



Source: EDAW, 2003

Regional Location of Sinkyone Wilderness State Park

EXHIBIT 1